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A longitudinal comparative study on nurse self-concept, caring behavior and professional commitment among nursing students in China

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Self-concept provides the foundation for ones' professional self-concept. Gap between educational influences and healthcare system expectations influences graduate nurses' professional self-concept and their ability to be socialized into the healthcare environment ultimately leading to poor retention and a negative professional self-concept. A comparative longitudinal study design was conducted to explore the effect of clinical experience on the nurse self concept, caring behavior and professional commitment among the final year nursing students of diploma (n=63) and bachelor level (n=52). The mean score of nurse self concept, caring behavior measurement and professional commitment is higher after the clinical internship of six months compared to pre internship among all the nursing students. There is a positive correlation between the nurse self concept, caring behavior and professional commitment. There is a significant difference in the professional commitment between the diploma and Bachelor's level of nursing students both pre (t=5.293, p<0.01) and post (t=3.620, p<0.01) clinical internship. However there is not any significant difference in any of the variables within the group regardless of clinical internship. Being a single child, class leader, enrolled in career planning class, perceiving nursing as a challenging job, reasons to be a nurse, course arrangement satisfaction, teacher's care, internship satisfaction and nurse teacher's care has identified to influence the nurse self concept, caring behavior and professional commitment among the nursing students. Thus, specific steps to deliberately embellish the foundation of knowledge in developing the self-concept of nurse and nursing students is must nowadays.

Biography

Bobby Thapa completed her MSc in Nursing in 2014 from Xiangya School of Nursing, Central South University, Hunan, PR China and is recently working as an Assistant Professor at Janamaitri Foundation Institute of Health Science, Hattiban, Lalitpur, Nepal since 1 year. She completed her BSc in Nursing in 2008 and has published two articles in one international and one national journal related to Pain Management (in Chinese) and HIV/AIDS in the National journal i.e. Nepal Nursing Journal. She worked as a Clinical Instructor for two and half years as soon as she completed her Bachelor's degree and then worked as a Registered Nurse in Gangalal National Heart Center, Nepal for 6 months and enrolled in Master's degree (Nursing) with a Governmental scholarship from China.

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